

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1. (Currently amended)** A method for producing a polyethylene terephthalate for molding, comprising:

- (1) a condensation step of condensing bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate having an ion content of 10 ppm or less and an acid value of 30 mgKOH/g or less to produce an oligomer having an average polymerization degree of 4 to 10,
- (2) a melt-polymerization step of melt-polymerizing the oligomer to produce a prepolymer having an intrinsic viscosity of 0.50 to 0.65, and
- (3) a solid-state polymerization step of crystallizing pellets of the prepolymer and then solid-state polymerizing the prepolymer at a temperature of 190 to 230°C to produce a polyethylene terephthalate having an intrinsic viscosity of not lower than 0.65 and having a cyclic trimer content of 2,000 ppm or less.

**2. (Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the polyethylene terephthalate obtained by solid-state polymerization has a carboxyl end group concentration of 10 eq/ton or less ~~and a cyclic trimer content of 2,000 ppm or less.~~

**3. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the optical density of bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate is 0.000 to 0.010.

**4. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the purity of bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate is not lower than 95 wt%.

**5. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate contains 0.5 to 5 mol% of isophthalic acid based on an acid component of bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate.

**6. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein in the condensation step, condensation is performed at a pressure of 7 to 70 kPa and a temperature of 220 to 270°C.

**7. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein in the condensation step, condensation is performed in the presence of a polymerization catalyst and a stabilizer.

**8. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the carboxyl end group concentration of the prepolymer is 10 eq/ton or less.

**9. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein in the melt-polymerization step, melt polymerization is carried out eventually at a pressure of 25 to 140 Pa and a temperature of 270 to 290°C.

**10. (Original)** A polyethylene terephthalate for molding, having:  
(a) an intrinsic viscosity of not lower than 0.65,  
(b) a carboxyl end group concentration of 10 eq/ton or less,  
(c) a cyclic trimer content of 2,000 ppm or less, and  
(d) a cyclic trimer content after molten and kept at 290°C for 30 seconds of 3,500 ppm or less.

**11. (Original)** The polyethylene terephthalate of claim 10, wherein the carboxyl end group concentration (b) is 6 eq/ton or less.

**12. (Original)** The polyethylene terephthalate of claim 10, wherein the cyclic trimer content (c) is 1,000 to 1,800 ppm, and the cyclic trimer content after molten and kept at 290°C for 30 seconds (d) is 2,500 to 3,500 ppm.